

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03301 01 OF 02 061620Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 3301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER MULDER HINTS AT NEW PROPOSALS FOR
NON-WHITE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS

REF: CAPE TOWN 995,

1. SUMMARY: IN A SIGNIFICANT SPEECH ON JULY 4, INTERIOR
MINISTER CONNIE MULDER HINTED THAT THE NATIONAL PARTY IS
CONSIDERING: SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL DISPENSATION
FOR COLOREDS AND INDIANS; FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF AFRICAN
HOMELANDS; AND MORE CONTROL BY URBAN BLACKS OVER THEIR INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. SUCH MOVES, HE SAID, WOULD FREE SOUTH AFRICA FROM
INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES AND RENEW WESTERN TIES THROUGH BRINGING
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03301 01 OF 02 061620Z

IT INTO THE AFRICAN MAINSTREAM. MULDER SEEMED TO BE PREPARING
THE GROUND FOR PARTY ACCEPTANCE OF WHAT HE CALLED "RADICAL"
PROPOSALS WHICH MIGHT HAVE "DRASTIC" EFFECTS BUT WHICH WOULD
INSURE WHITE SURVIVAL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE AFRIKAANSE STUDENTEBOND CONGRESS
JULY 4, INTERIOR MINISTER CONNIE MULDER HINTED THAT THE

NATIONAL PARTY IS CONSIDERING SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL DISPENSATION FOR NON-WHITES. WHILE DEFENDING THE HOMELAND SYSTEM, MULDER SAID SOUTH AFRICA MUST, AT SOME STAGE, PERHAPS EVEN AFTER INDEPENDENCE, NEGOTIATE POSSIBLE FURTHER LAND CONSOLIDATION SO THE HOMELANDS COULD BE MANAGEABLE AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THERE WAS A NEED TO INSURE THAT URBAN AND RURAL BLACKS LIVING IN "WHITE AREAS" WERE POLITICALLY ACCOMMODATED IN HOMELANDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND PERMITTED GREATER LOCAL AUTONOMY OVER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

3. AS REGARDS COLOREDS AND INDIANS, MULDER SAID MANY WERE ALREADY LAND-HOLDERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUP AREAS, AND THUS THEY ALREADY HAVE "A DEGREE OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONTENT TO THEIR POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS". BUT THERE WAS A NEED, HE CONTINUED, TO "FIND A SATISFACTORY GEOGRAPHICAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH THESE TWO POPULATION GROUPS IN A MOST SINGULAR WAY; OTHERWISE THE PROBLEM WILL KEEP NAGGING US AND A SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM SOLUTION WILL CONTINUE TO EVADE US". PRESS COMMENT ON THE SPEECH SUGGESTED MULDER WAS HINTING AT SEPARATE HOMELANDS FOR COLOREDS AND INDIANS. IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW, MULDER CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT SUCH A SOLUTION. "WE ARE THINKING WELL BEYOND THAT", HE SAID. IN HIS SPEECH, MULDER NOTED THAT THE CURRENT CABINET COMMITTEE STUDYING ADAPTATIONS TO THE WESTMINSTER SYSTEM WAS DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES AND HE COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 03301 01 OF 02 061620Z

NOT SAY ANY MORE FOR THE MOMENT.

4. MULDER DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR CHANGE PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF ENDING SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION. HE NOTED THAT THE WEST WAS WILLING TO UNDERSTAND SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS, BUT FEARED THE THIRD WORLD VOTE IN THE UN. THE WEST, HE SAID, BELIEVED THE SOLUTION LAY IN "SOUTH AFRICA MAKING ITS PEACE WITH THE REST OF AFRICA". SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES, HE CLAIMED, HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED THIS WAS POSSIBLE, BUT HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THEM. SOUTH AFRICA COULD ONLY BE ACCEPTED, HE WARNED, IF IT MADE CERTAIN ADAPTATIONS AS REGARDS ITS NON-WHITE CITIZENS SO THAT ALL SOUTH AFRICANS CAN "TALK FROM ONE MOUTH TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD".

5. WHILE ASSURING HIS AUDIENCE THAT ANY STEPS TOWARD A NEW DISPENSATION MUST BE PRECEDED BY GUARANTEES OF SECURITY FOR WHITE IDENTITY AND SOVEREIGNTY IN "WHITE AFFAIRS", IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE PEOPLE TO "SHOW NEW VISION AND HAVE THE COURAGE OF THEIR CONVICTIONS TO, WHERE NECESSARY, MAKE RADICAL DECISIONS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DRASTIC THINGS." THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES COULD SUCCEED, HE SAID, IF "WE ARE PREPARED, WITHOUT HESITATION AND WITH BOLDNESS AND REALISM TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY TO ITS FULL IMPLICATIONS. SUCH ACTION

IS HONORABLE, JUSTIFIABLE, AND DEFENSIBLE." MULDER SAID HE BELIEVED THE POEPLC WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE IF THEY COULD THEREBY INSURE THEIR SURVIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03301 02 OF 02 061652Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 3301

6. COMMENT: MULDER'S SPEECH HAS RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY INCLUDING FAVORABLE COMMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED SABC. MULDER'S PRONOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS PIET KOORNHOF'S PROPOSAL LAST MONTH FOR A CANTON-STYLE SYSTEM, WHICH MULDER AS WELL AS VORSTER PUBLICLY REJECTED. WHILE MULDER DOES NOT DEVIATE FROM THE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND HIS IDEAS ARE MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THOSE OF KOORNHOF, IN THE AFRIKANER CONTEXT THEY ARE REGARDED AS "RADICAL" DEPARTURES. HIS PROPOSALS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN KOORNHOF'S TO REFLECT THE BROAD OUTLINES OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES ON WHICH THE NP LEADERSHIP MIGHT AGREE. WHILE MULDER'S REMARKS MIGHT BE TAKEN AS A CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE WITHIN NP COUNCILS ON WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE INTRODUCED, WE BELIEVE THEY ARE ALSO DESIGNED TO START CONDITIONING AFRIKANER THINKING ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03301 02 OF 02 061652Z

THE ALTERATIONS IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH THE
NP LEADERSHIP WILL REPORTEDLY CONSULT WITH THE RANK AND
FILE AT THE FORTHCOMING PROVINCIAL NP CONGRESSES.
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